

Project update: April 2016

An important goal of my project is environmental education about the ecosystem services provided by bats. I gave activities to children of 5th and 6th grade of elementary school; it was successfully carried out in some communities near to the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve. The purpose was to explain the importance of bats, focusing on aerial insectivorous guild and their habitat conservation. The schools were from three communities, one of them was of native kids of the region. Bioconciencia A.C. provided me the material for activities about bats; they also gave me recommendations about explanations of some concepts to children. This organisation has worked many years in conservation and education on Mexico's wildlife, especially in bats. The activities helped to show the great number of bat species and their variety of diets, including the services they provide, especially the insectivorous bats in the control of insects populations. The threats to natural habitat was also highlighted, particularly the conversion of these to monocultures as oil palm plantations. It was an incredible experience for me because the kids were interested and participatory. These activities contribute to improve the vision about bats from an early age.



Students of the elementary school at the community of Nueva Reforma listen the explanation prior to the activity. Photography by Alejandra L. Valenzuela